

Fall 2010

# The Playboy of the Western World

School of Theatre and Dance  
*Illinois State University*

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ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF THEATRE PRESENTS

# THE PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD

by John Millington Synge

Westhoff Theatre

September 29, 30, October 1, 2 at 7:30 p.m. October 2, 3 at 2 p.m. 2010

# The Playboy of the Western World

*by John Millington Synge*

## ARTISTIC STAFF

Director .....	Emily Gill*
Voice and Dialect Director .....	Connie deVeer
Fight Director .....	Paul Denhardt
Dramaturg .....	Brett Byron
Stage Manager .....	Casey Peek
Costume Designer.....	Sandy Childers *
Hair and Make-Up designer .....	Tyler Wilson
Lighting Designer .....	Grace Maberg *
Scenic Designer.....	Steven House *
Sound Designer.....	Aaron Paolucci
Prop Master.....	Danielle Udchik
Technical Director.....	MJ Sedlock

*\*Denotes Master of Fine Arts or Master of Arts Candidate*

## CAST

(In order of appearance)

Peegen Mike .....	Melisa Pereyra *
Shawn Keogh .....	Patrick Riley
Michael James .....	Anthony Urso
Philly Cullen .....	Patrick Boylan
Jimmy Farrell .....	Kyle Wynn
Christy Mahon .....	Jeb Burris *
Widow Quin .....	Sabrina Conti
Susan Brady.....	Claire Small
Sara Tansey .....	Lauren Besinger Colby
Honor Blake .....	Elizabeth Keach
Old Mahon .....	Tony Pellegrino
Townspople .....	Melanie Camire, Claire Ford, Carly Oros
.....	A.J.Rosenblat, Ricky Torres

## SETTING

Location.....Near a Village, on a wild coast of Mayo

Act 1: An evening of Autumn

Act 2: The next day

Act 3: The same day

Time.....Autumn, 1904

*There will be a 15 minute intermission between Acts 2 and 3*

# PRODUCTION STAFF

Faculty Advisor .....	Sandra Zielinski
Assistant Stage Manager .....	Ryan Keller
Assistant Lighting Designer .....	Justine Clewer
Assistant Sound Designer .....	Mark Caspary
Costume Craft Supervisor .....	Mark Spain
Assistant Costume Designer .....	Carol Zhou*
Assistant Costume Designer .....	Shana Hall
Assistant Prop Designer .....	Michelle Stahl
Master Carpenter .....	Greg Geddes
Wardrobe Supervisor .....	Nicole Pressner
Master Electrician .....	Melissa Wilson
Assistant Master Electrician .....	Joseph Jones

## STAGE CREW

Light Board Operator .....	David Robertson
Sound Board Operator .....	Eliza Morris
Charge Artist .....	John Stark
Assistant Charge Artist .....	Hanna Supanich-Winter
Running Crew .....	Storm Angone, Alyssa Donovan, Jesus Estela, ..... Josh Raether, Kayla Stroner, Jaymee Toler
Wardrobe Crew .....	Julia Besch, Darci Blake, Clare Disser, Chelsea DuBois, ..... Ashlyn Hughes, Kate Klemchuk, Berylanne Lynch, ..... Shannon Parry, Allison Taylor, Taylor Wisham
Lighting Crew .....	Betsy Diller, Meredith Francis, Lisa Hempel, ..... Robert Hornbostel, Jeremy Lane, Tom Moster, Emily Ruiz, ..... Brittney Smith, Kacey Valentine, Jesika Wallace
Paint Crew .....	Jaclyn Aul, Arielle Hoard, Callie Gliwa, Lauren Partch, ..... Jessica Abbinante, Nina Ganet, Robert Leahy, ..... Elisha Viccone, Megan Bernie, Abra Myles

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

### *Gratitude To The Unknown Instructors*

What they undertook to do  
They brought to pass;  
All things hang like a drop of dew  
Upon a blade of grass.

-W.B. Yeats

# DRAMATURG'S NOTES

The world of *The Playboy of the Western World* is not an easy one in which to live. Turn of the century Ireland was a country of great turmoil: the great famine had left many unemployed, sick, or dead; the Catholic and Protestant churches were at the height of their hatred for one another; and the Land Acts were in full swing leaving many without shelter. However, through all this, the Irish people held onto their public image of being a highly moral and extremely friendly group. Also, during this time, a lot of them turned to the iconic images of Irish culture. One of the most sacred of these symbols was the Irish-speaking peasant living in the rural, Irish west.

So, on January 26, 1907, the curtain rose at Dublin's Abbey Theatre on J. M. Synge's *The Playboy of the Western World* for the first time. Everyone was nervous. The Abbey's mission was to use "art as a vehicle for promoting Irish nationalism."

(1) They knew very well that Synge's satiric comedy about the west of Ireland would offend many audience members and go against their mission. Yet, despite their better judgment, the Abby Theatre forged ahead with their production.

The opening night's audience watched politely; until W.G. Fay, the actor playing Christy Mahon, declared: "It's Pegeen I'm seeking only, and what'd I care if you brought me a drift of Mayo girls (1), standing in their shifts itself maybe, from this place to the Eastern world?" The image of these countless Mayo girls in their underwear ("shift" was a less polite term for "chemise"), offering themselves to a man who had claimed to have killed his father, was the straw that broke the camel's back and they began to riot. The audience had been submitted to an evening of words and images that systematically destroyed the idealized image of the Irish west. Protests, counter-protests, fights, arrests and debates were common place inside and outside the theatre for the remaining performances of the show. For years these riots would overshadow the critical discussion of Synge's play.

This play was Synge's own answers to questions that had plagued his life: what does it mean to be an Irishman? Synge, a man who had gone through countless religions, was trying to find the answer to this question and his answers can be found within the actions and words of Christy Mahon; a man who describes himself as the most admirable of murderers to the rural folk of County Mayo. Now one can better understand why an audience would riot this show.

<sup>1</sup> A Noise Within, comp. *The Playboy of the Western World: Study Guide*. California: Noise Within, 2009. Print.

<sup>1</sup> Note: The actual line in the play includes the phrase "chosen females," and not "Mayo girls," but Fay had flubbed the line, making it more specific and, thus, more objectionable.

# Theatre and Dance Season 2010-2011

Playboy of the Western World by John Millington Synge  
*September 29, 30, October 1, 2 at 7:30 pm; October 2, 3 at 2 pm*

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee  
by Rachel Sheinkin and William Finn  
*October 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 at 7:30 pm; October 10 at 2 pm*

Measure for Measure by William Shakespeare  
*October 27, 28, 29, 30 at 7:30 pm; October 30, 31 at 2 pm*

Les Liaisons Dangereuses by Christopher Hampton  
*November 11, 12, 13, 14 at 7:30 pm; November 13, 14 at 2 pm*

Major Barbara by George Bernard Shaw  
*December 8, 9 10, 11 at 7:30 pm; December 11 at 2 pm*

Dance Theatre featuring Martha Graham's "Diversion of Angels"  
*December 9, 10, 11 at 7:30 pm; December 11 at 2 pm*

Madrigal Dinners 55th Anniversary  
*December 8, 9, 10, 11 at 6:30 pm; December 11 at 1 pm*

How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying  
*February 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 at 7:30 pm; February 13 at 2 pm*

Bhopal by Rahul Varma  
*February 23, 24, 25, 26 at 7:30 pm; February 26, 27 at 2 pm*

Two Gentlemen of Verona by William Shakespeare  
*March 30, 31, April 1, 2 at 7:30 pm; April 2, 3 at 2 pm*

Rock 'n' Roll by Tom Stoppard  
*March 31, April 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9 at 7:30 pm; April 3 at 2 pm*

The Tooth of Crime by Sam Shepard  
*April 20, 21, 22, 23 at 7:30 pm; April 23, 24 at 2 pm*

Dance Theatre  
*April 28, 29, 30 at 7:30 pm; April 30 at 2 pm*

# SPECIAL THANKS

Deb Alley, Ann Haugo, Don LaCasse, Sandra Zielinski, Sonja Moser, Henry Wornicz, Adam Fox, Lori Adams, Jesse Cannady, Connie deVeer, Paul Denhardt, Christopher Dea, Jon Ferreira, Jeremy Garrett, Brandon Ray, James Wagoner, Chad Lowell, Julie Mack, Joe Payne, Mark Spain, Lauren Lowell, Gary Alcorn, April Klockenga, Janet Wilson, the members of DesignStreak Studios, Julie Johnson



*For generous in-kind donations throughout the season, a special thanks to the Old House Society, 214 East Douglas Street in Bloomington*

## NOTICES

So that you may have the best experience in enjoying today's production, please be aware of the following:

- No cameras or other recording devices are allowed in the theatre
- Please turn off all pagers, cellular phones, and watch alarms
- Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the House Manager
- If you leave your seat during the performance you may not be reseated
- Food and drink are not allowed in the theatre

*Illinois State University is a member of the National Association of Schools of Theatre and the University/Resident Theatre Association*

## SCHOOL OF THEATRE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS Fall 2010

Victoria Allen, Brynne Barnard, Matthew Bausone, Michelle Benda, Megan Bernier, Hannah Brown, Jesse Cannady, Ware Carlton-Ford, Kelsey Cravens, Deanna Durbin, Audra Ferguson, Scott Friedrich, Callie Gliwa, Emily Hahn, Matthew Hallahan, Ashlyn Hughes, Rachel Jarz, Mary Keenan, Ryan Keller, Megan Klug, Brittany Knickelbein, Dana Knickelbein, Jared Kugler, Madeline Kulisek, Julia Kummerow, Catherine Leinicke, Cameron Lilly, Tess Losada, Daniel Machalinski, Thomas Malouf, Andrew Miller, Shannon Parry, Brittany Powers, Natalie Raslina, Lauren Roark, Claire Small, Rebecca Solomon, Artemis Steakley-Freman, Fiona Stephens, Joanna Szewczuk, Nico Tangorra, Abby Vombrack, Shannon Wibright, Arif Yampolsky



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This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for inclusion at the KCACTF regional festival and can also be considered for invitation to the KCACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC in the spring of 2011.

Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.



# SCHOOL OF THEATRE

## *Faculty*

Interim Director ..... Janet Wilson

Lori Adams, Brian Aitken, Debbie Alley, Daniel Browder, Cyndee Brown, Kate Cook, Amy Coon, Connie De Veer, Paul Dennhardt, Christine Duncan, Adam Fox, Lon Gordon, Ann Haugo, Donald Lacasse, Chad Lowell, Lauren Lowell, Julie Mack, Chris Marino, Jack McLaughlin-Gray, Gregory Merriman, Laurie Merriman, Sonja Moser, Aaron Paolucci, Joe Payne, Kim Pereira, John Poole, Sara Semonis, Alan Sikes, Leslie Sloan-Orr, Mark Spain, John Stark, Michael J. Vetere III, Darby Wilde, Henry Woronicz, Li Zeng, Sandra Zielinski

## *Staff*

Academic Advisor ..... Tom Powers  
Costume Shop Supervisor ..... Christine Duncan  
Craft Room Supervisor ..... Mark Spain  
Marketing Director ..... Dick Folse  
Office Support ..... Amy Coon, Valerie Dambold, Yvette Huddleson  
Production Supervisor ..... Chad Lowell  
Prop Shop Supervisor ..... Adam Spencer\*  
Prop Shop Assistant Supervisor ..... Emily Wilken  
Scene Shop Master Carpenter ..... David George  
Scene Shop Supervisor ..... Chad Lowell  
Scene Shop Technical Director ..... Dan Browder  
Sound Shop Supervisor ..... Alex Schmaus  
Sound Shop Assistant Supervisor ..... Sarah Putts

Costume Staff ... Sandy Childers\*, Sabrina Conti, Jeanine Fry, Tina Godziszewski,  
..... Shana Hall, Lisa Hempel, kClare Kemock\*, Emily Nichelson,  
..... Brittany Powers, Judith Rivera-Ramirez\*, Lauren Roark,  
..... David Robertson, Emily Ruiz, Melissa Scott\*, Brittney Smith,  
..... Jesika "Wendy" Wallace, Tyler Wilson, Xiachen "Carol" Zhou\*  
Light Shop Staff ... Matt Black, Chad Shelton, Alejandra Villalobos (Electricians for CPA)  
..... Betsy Diller (Electrician for Westhoff)  
Prop Shop Staff ... Jessica Caruso, Roslyn Cox, Cynthia Jones, Jennifer McIntosh,  
..... Katie Mulcahy, Marissa Wisniewsk  
Scene Shop Staff ... Mary Jean Sedlock, Thomas Egan, Robert Hornbostel,  
..... Greg Geddes, Tom Moster, Eric Moslow, Alex K\*, Mark Gartzman,  
..... JM Montecalvo\*, Ariel Mozes, Anna Duttlinger, Andie Zaragoza,  
..... Josh Robinson, Jason Chang, Mat Piotrowski, Brittany Powers  
Sound Shop Staff ..... Deanna Durbin, Scott Friedrich, Devon Hartwig

## *Theatre Practicum*

Kimi Arquines, Megan Klug, Cameron Lilly, Kristen Lindstrom, Tess Losada, Shelby Maurer, Molly McNamee, Andrew Miller, Erin Musser, Nicki Padron-Glass, Gerald Price, Andrew Rogalny, Dan Sawyers, Marissa Talarico, Tyler Yonke, Kayleigh Walter

# CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Ticket Office Manager .....Brandon Burling

Ticket Office & Front of House .....Tori Allen, Jesse Cannady,  
.....Rachael Caise, Alex Carlson, Mitch Conti, Sabrina Conti,  
.....Joey Fitzpatrick, Alex Hartman, Liesl Krieger, Collen Longo,  
.....Ryan Mostardo, Kelsey O'Dowd, Casey Peek, Anna Swacker,  
.....Lora Vodicka, Samantha Yablon

Duty Manager .....Christopher Dea

# COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

Dean.....James Major

Dean's Office.....Kathryn Anderson, Peter Guither,  
.....Laurie Merriman, Nathan Rudge, John Walker, Shari Zeck

# UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

President .....Al Bowman

Vice President and Provost .....Sheri Noren Everts

# THEATRE POLICIES

## *Ticket Policies*

The ticket office in the Center for the Performing Arts handles tickets for all College of Fine Arts events, including music and theatre performances in the Center, plus performances in Westhoff Theatre.

The Ticket Office is open 11 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday. Call (309) 438-2535. Purchase tickets online at Ticketmaster, 24 hours a day!

There is a performance ticket office (often referred to as "will-call") open one hour before each performance for picking up tickets. For Center for the Performing Arts performances it is the main ticket office. For Westhoff Theatre performances, it is in the Westhoff lobby.

## *Late Seating*

Patrons who arrive after a performance has been started for a Westhoff Theatre production will not be seated until intermission if there is one (this is for safety requirements due to the intimate nature of the space — entering the theatre requires walking on the stage). For events in the Center for the Performing Arts, patrons may be seated late at the discretion of the House Manager during an appropriate break in the performance.

## *Exchanges/Refunds*

Exchanges can be made for a \$2.00 exchange fee per ticket at least 24 hours in advance. (First exchange fee is waived for subscribers.) Tickets can not be refunded.



